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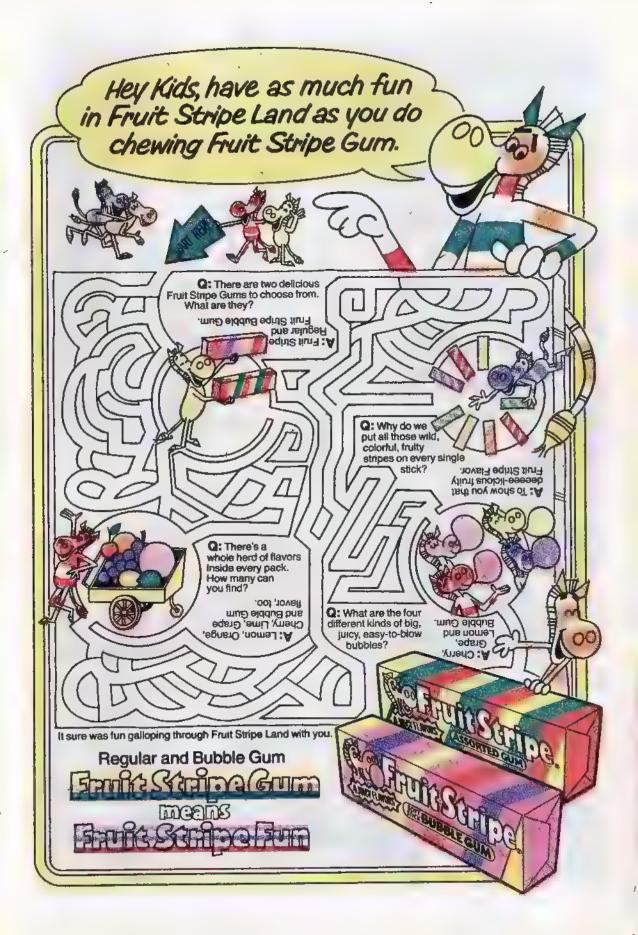
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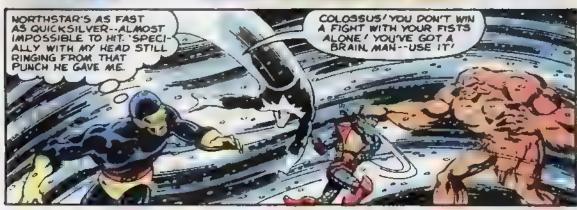






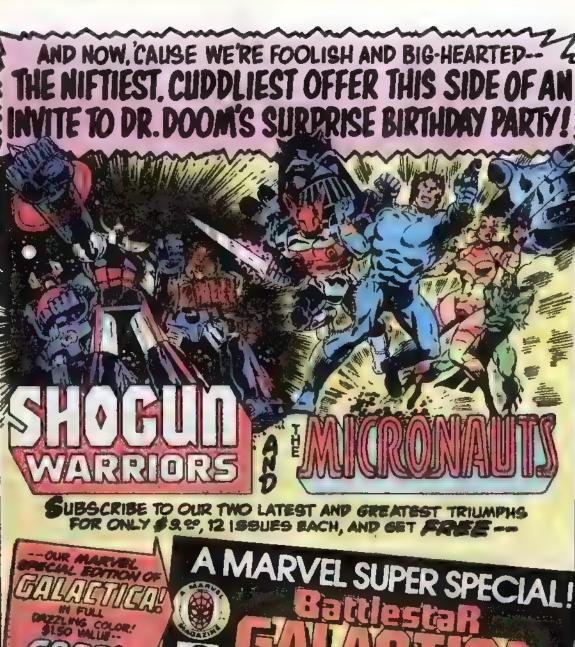














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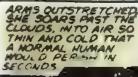








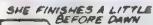


















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In other words, all you need do is write to the television network on which the program is presented, and remember—the mail they receive really does make a difference! Y'know, when the Dr. Strange two-hour movie was first shown on CBS a few months ago, dozens of people told me how much they enjoyed it. But when I asked if they had dropped a note to

CBS telling how they felt, not one of them had thought to do so, because they hadn't restized that their letters would matter So, a word to the wise (And who ever heard of an unwise Marvelite?) Your opinions really do count — but only if you let the network know!

And, speeking of letting people know, if you happen to be an or near Miami, Flonda on April 7th, drop by the Holiday Irm, 110th Street and Biscayne Blvd, in North Miami, and say hello. I'll be there, whoopin' it up for ol' Marvel, as usual, at the famous Miamicon. 2 which runs from April 6th through the 8th, where it's always great to greet a horde of true believers!

So, till we meet again, let's all ponder the imperishable words of Irving Forbush. "Never hassle a howling Hulk - you wouldn't like him when he's angry!"

Or, as we say in the Bullpen. "Never thtrike an alling Asgardian. - you wouldn't like him when he's Thort" (Forgive me gang— it's been a tough day!)

Excelsion

Stan

ITEM! In this column we often ramble on shamelessly about how well we're doing on various titles, and how wonderfully we've impressed ourselves with whatever new special project is on the fire at the moment. The fact st. without exception, the hype berein stems from sincers excitement about the creative endeavors we blurb, but sometimes it must seem to you that we're pushing our wares too hard. Now, we were going to start off this month's news with a wowie-kazowie rave about our impending almost aishoe-in TV deal for none other than SPIDER WOMAN, and put purselves on the back for the terrific job that we've done with the character, but with our aforementioned worries in mindwell, we just can't! In many ways, we have every right to brag-after all, who can knock success? We've had terrific penciling issue after issue by Carmine Infantino, top-notch stripting by both longtime superstar Mary Wolfman and talented upstart Mark Gruenwald, and nifty inking by recent discovery Al-Gordon. Even the coloring's been outstanding. What's more, the mail response has been overwhermingly enthusiastic and the sales have been pretty good! With a TV deal in the offing, who, you may well inquire, could ask for anything more? Frankly, we could. Maybe we re crazy to want to tamper with a winner



but there just seemed to be something missing from Spider Woman. As any pro-writ tell you, something can be very good without being right." The best art and the best words mithing

don't always quarantee that special magic in a series—that happy harmony in the creative effort that makes a book a standout. Not being the type of folks to settle for less than perfect, several weeks ago, Jim Shooter, Mark Gruenwald, Mary Wolfman, Jim Salicrup, and Stan the Man himself settled into Stan's office, ordered up lunch (on the company)) and spent the entire afternoon talking things out, analyzing our approach to Spider Woman, discussing who she is, why she is that way, and how to best portray her It was a long, exhausting brainsession—but worth it, because a lot of things fell into piace! At last, we think we've got it! Spider Woman #14 ought to be on sale soon after you read this. If you should happen to buy a copy, (and we certainly hope you will be sure and write in and tell us how we're doing. After all, you folks out there have the final word!

ITEM! All hum into aside, we'd like to men tion that we happened to have produced a few of the best comics ever, anywhere, which are on sale right now! For instance? Well, how about DAREDEVIL #158, which brings you the long awaited revelation of the secret of Deathstalker Roger McKenzie wrote it, Frank Moter penciled it. Klaus Janson inked it, and. no two ways about it, it's magnificent. Another out and out triumph is THOR #283, by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Chic Stone, featuring a tale entitled, "Suddenly Celestrals!" Still another smash is MICRO NAUTS #5, "The Prometheus Pit", by Bill Manito, Mike Golden and Joe Rubinstein. There are other great comics from Marvei this month of course but we'll leave for you the joy of discovering them. Check out your local newsstand. We have a hunch you'll love what you find.

FTEMI Just a quick parting note. Many people have written in asking just who it is who writes this crazy column. Most folks presume it's Smilin' Stan, since his is the only signature on the whole bullpen page, but, in fact, Stanwrites only the soapbox part of the page. Ye Olde Editor in-Chief pens these lines, and hereby is declared responsible for all dumb mistakis herein. So, there! The truth, at last, is out. Now can we please by to rest the numor that Jim Shooter has fled to Borneo babbing something about schedules?

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MEXIX CHICAGO CONTROL CONTROL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP 575 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10022 AOGER STERN EDITOR JIM SALICRUP ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Chris and John,

All right, I know you're still getting mail on X-MEN #111, and the volume is certainly deserved. Add my letter to the pile, but on the new one that must be reserved for X-MEN #116.

The spreed on Pages 2 & 3—absolutely mind-blowing, John, you've got to watch the physical effort of trying to outdo yourself, because it will be awfully tough this time. Such intricate detail on such a broad expanse; such a futuristic setting. Absolutely mind-blowing. That large panel was among the finest individual pieces of comic art I have ever feasted my eyes on. (But I do fear for Terry Austin's vision after inking it.)

Oh, yeah, that brings me to Claremont. Another fine work of writing as textural as your co-creator's artwork, Chris. What impressed me the most was the new dimension you've given to Wolverine, in his uncanny empathy with wild animals. That you could include such character detail in such breakneck action is yet another tribute to your skills as a writer. Now that we've seen more to our Canadian mutant, our friends from Germany and the Soviet Union are due for the same treatment. Nightbrawler and Colossus have the same potential.

Realizing that you two plan to spotlight each X-Man in a similar manner, let me suggest that while Cyclops sorts his own complicated past out, that you for Professor X, whichever comes first) designate Banshee as field commander. Sean is the oldest X-Man and probably the most emotionally stable, being that Wolverine and Storm respond to him in a way that Cyclops can't develop. Irish has found a home after all the years of running and hiding, and enjoys his new life. Making him field leader would add a whole new and positive dimension to an already fine character. And to the magazine I now consider the best buy for the comic book money.

So this is just another wildly enthusiastic letter in another growing pile. Continued good luck in blowing our minds every month.

> Gerry Einhaus 4324 North 6th Street Philadelphia, PA 19140

People:

If you've been reading my letters, this one may surprise you. You see, I am the X-MEN's staunchest supporter, which is why I am so deeply disappointed in these last two issues. For some odd reason, the store where I shop got X-MEN #118 before #115—so, having missed an issue, I was confused. I assumed that the issue I had missed would fill in certain blanks—i.e., who is Lykos/Sauron, who is the priestess and who and why is the Petrified Man? Upon reading issue #115, I found that not only were my questions inadequately answered, I became even more confused—and there was no "missing issue" to straighten me out.

The entire story was rushed and confusing. Too many elements were jammed into too few issues. First of all: Lykos. Now, I have been reading the X-MEN for a long time. However, issues #67-93, as you well know, were reprints, so that Lykos' original appearance probably occured before I could read. Therefore, I feel that I, and all of Marveldom, deserve an explanation of more than how he got to the Savage Land. Who is he?!? As per Zaladane-she was mentioned in the recap on Page 3/#116 in such a way as to lead one to believe that she played a major part in the previous issue. In point of fact, she was totally unnecessary - a throwaway character who only served to clutter up the magazine. Speaking of clutter-who are Tandy Snow and Kloss? They served no purpose, were given no identity, didn't even speak -so why were they there? Maybe KA-ZAR fans know these people, but comics are too expensive these days for you people to assume that even the biggest

fan reads all your tities. Tongah's identity was also confusing. And speaking of weird, baffling toss-offs—what was that alien city? It appeared for four panels in X-MEN #115 without cause, reason or explanation. Unfair!

Something else that was left out was the decision by Scott to help Ka-Zar. At the end of #116 it was decided that the X-Men should rush home to Professor X. Then, on Page 1 of #116: "they'd begun climbing at dawn..." The making of this decision was too important and interesting to have been left out. The end of #116—Storm going down the shaft to save Garokk. then coming back alone, unable to face her claustrophobia was very dramatic—but on a second reading, very flawed. First of all, Storm could very easily have saved Scott and let Banshee go after Garokk. Second of all, Wolverine showed great insight—wonderful—but there was no time for Banshee to tell the others where Storm was. Wolverine could not have known that "she went down that hole to save a life."

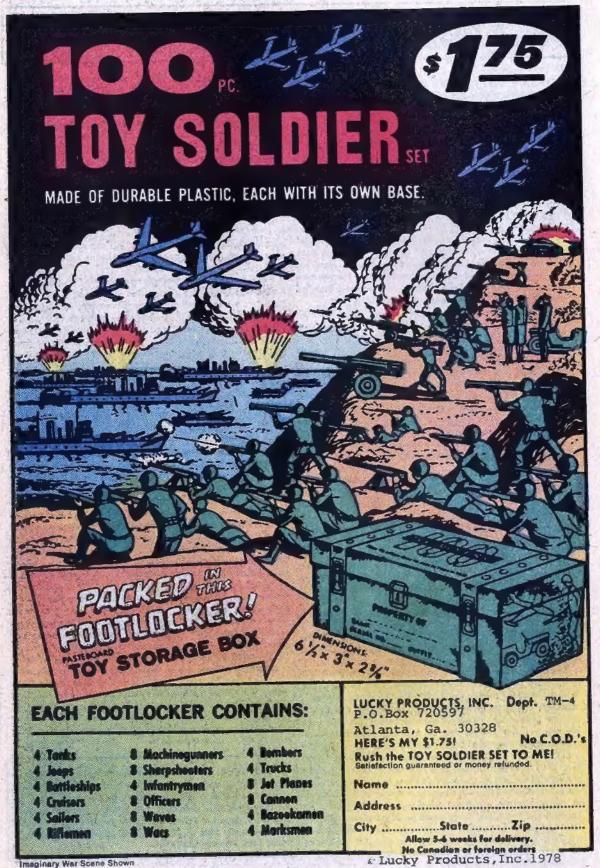
Even John Byrne, as great as he is, was not up to par. Sure, Ka-Zar was drawn beautifully—his identity came out totally. But Kirk Marston (before his transformation) looked far too much like Karl Lykes. The individuality wasn't there.

Of course, there were good parts to the story—particularly Wolverine chatting with Zabu, then savagely killing the guard. I like the way he took charge. Face it—Chris Claremont and John Byrne are the best, so I find any lessening in quality disturbing.

Debble Lipp 62 Towerhill Road Mt. Lakes, NJ 07046

You raise a number of points, Debbie; we'll try to answer them as best we can. Starting small- Banshee couldn't have rescued Garokk because the dust, smoke, furnes and heat within the shaft would have affected his sonic powers far faster than they affected Storm. Even groggy or semi-conscious, she can fly and the thermal updrafts would naturally lift her up out of the shaft. The instant Banshee stopped screaming, he'd plummet like a stone, presumably to perish with the villain he tried to save. Also, Wolvie- though he isn't in the penel-probably heard Cyclops' line on Page 30, panel 2 to the effect that when Banshee rescued him (Cyclops), Storm went after Garokk. Concerning your major criticisms, however, we have no easy out. Possibly even no defense. Hindsight is a wonderful thing and Chris has been mentally kicking himself over that issue for months now. In retrospect, both he and editor Roger Stern agree that it was a classic case of not seeing the forest for the trees- of trying so hard to touch bese with all the loose ends of Doug Moench's KA-ZAR plotline that we forgot many present-day readers probably have never read the story in question. Or the 1970 X-MEN story that introduced Sauron, We concentrated on flash-carding all the characters and situations, without giving them any real context—both in relation to themselves and to the X-Men. Some readers didn't mind; others-Jim "Big Guy" Shooter among them-did. Them's the breaks, unfortunately; though both Chris and John-and Roger-have all promised themselves that they won't do it again. Wish 'em luck, Debbie; they'll probably need it.

NEXT ISSUE: A change-of-pace issue, where a lot happens—yet nothing happens. The X-Men are home, picking the pieces of their lives after a seeming eternity on the road. You'll see old characters, new characters, new situations—more subplots than seems decent in a book that's only monthly—and a couple of surprises. Be here in 30, folks, and perhaps you, too, will: "CRY FOR THE CHILDREN!"



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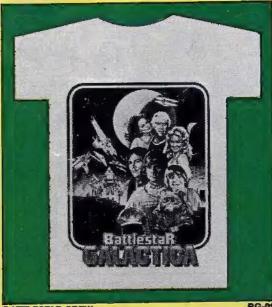


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